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Council President Gómez Schedules Hearing on COVID-19 Crisis and Response

*On Tuesday, Council to Ratify State of Emergency, Act on Resident
Protections*

SAN DIEGO –City Council President Georgette Gómez has scheduled a special meeting of the City Council for 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, to ratify the Mayor's state of emergency declaration and act on a comprehensive package of legislation to help lessen the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on San Diego's most at-risk residents.

The Council meeting will take place in Golden Hall, located in the San Diego Civic Concourse.

"The COVID-19 pandemic is already causing harm throughout our communities and across our regional economy, impacting vulnerable families, individuals, and businesses," Gómez said. "We must act immediately to protect those who most are at risk of devastating financial hardship."

To extend a state of emergency declaration to 30 days, the Mayor must submit it to the City Council for ratification. In addition to calling on the Council to act on that declaration, Council President Gómez will ask the Council to advance the following measures:

- Request that the Mayor and City Attorney, with assistance from the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC), evaluate and present proposals to the City Council to implement a temporary moratorium on residential evictions due to non-payment of rent resulting from a loss of wages caused by the outbreak of COVID-19, which may include presentation of an emergency ordinance to City Council.
- Request that the SDHC evaluate and present proposals to the City Council or Housing Authority of the City of San Diego (Housing Authority) to implement a temporary moratorium on evictions and mortgage foreclosures for property owned by the Housing Authority or by the SDHC due to non-payment of rent or mortgages resulting from a loss of wages caused by the outbreak of COVID-19.
- Adopt a resolution requesting Governor Gavin Newsom implement a temporary moratorium on residential evictions due to non-payment of rent resulting from a loss of wages caused by the outbreak of COVID-19.
- Adopt a resolution requesting the San Diego Superior Court to temporarily suspend all pending residential eviction cases and reject new filings of residential eviction cases during the pendency of state of emergency related to the outbreak of COVID-19.

- Adopt a resolution requesting the San Diego County Sheriff suspend service of unlawful-detainer actions and enforcement of evictions within the City of San Diego due to non-payment of rent resulting from a loss of wages caused by the outbreak of COVID-19.
- Adopt a resolution calling upon the Congressional delegation and federal Administration to direct the Department of Homeland Security to suspend immigration enforcement operations, including interior checkpoints in sensitive locations including hospitals, clinics, and other healthcare facilities.
- Request that the Mayor and the City's Public Utilities Department evaluate potential relief from late fees and utility shutoffs due to non-payment resulting from a loss of wages caused by the outbreak of COVID-19 and bring any necessary actions to City Council for approval or ratification.
- Request that the Mayor work with San Diego Gas & Electric and any other utility provider to evaluate potential relief from late fees and utility shutoffs due to non-payment resulting from a loss of wages caused by the outbreak of COVID-19.
- Request that the Mayor and San Diego Housing Commission evaluate temporary relief funding for workers within the City of San Diego who were laid off or furloughed as a result of the outbreak of COVID-10 to help those workers pay rent and/or utility bills.
- Request that the Mayor and the City Attorney evaluate and present proposals to the City Council to implement a temporary moratorium on evictions for small businesses under commercial leases, who cannot pay rent due to loss of revenue as a result of COVID-19, which may include presentation of an emergency ordinance to City Council.
- Request that the Mayor and the City's Economic Development Department evaluate and report back to City Council on a strategy with potential options to work with banks and lenders to halt mortgage payments or foreclosures for individuals and landlords who have suffered severe loss of wages and income due to the outbreak of COVID-19.
- Request that the City's Intergovernmental Relations staff temporarily prioritize requests for emergency funding and support from the state and federal governments as the overriding No. 1 citywide priority.
- Request that the Mayor enforce the Earned Sick Leave and Minimum Wage Ordinance.
- Request that the Mayor evaluate and report back to City Council on delaying collection and enforcement of the City's Business Tax Certificate fees.
- Request that the Mayor and City Attorney evaluate and present proposals to the City Council to implement a temporary moratorium on vehicle habitation fees and impounds, who cannot pay due to loss of revenue as a result of COVID-19, which may include presentation of an emergency ordinance to City Council.
- Request that the Mayor, working with the local hotel association, labor partners, and homelessness service providers, to open hotel rooms including provider services to unsheltered individuals and families.

On Feb. 19, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors ratified a declaration of local health emergency. On March 11, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak to be a pandemic. On March 12,

Mayor Kevin Faulconer declared a state of emergency for the City of San Diego and announced he would seek ratification from the City Council.

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Council President Gómez represents the Ninth Council District of the City of San Diego, which includes the communities of Alvarado Estates, City Heights, College Area, College View Estates, El Cerrito, Kensington, Mountain View, Mt. Hope, Rolando, Southcrest, and Talmadge. She chairs the City of San Diego Rules Committee and sits on the Metropolitan Transit System Board of Directors and on the SANDAG Board of Directors and Executive Board.